

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Community Health Surveys

The Council supplemented published data by reviewing survey data regarding behavioral risk factor conducted by the University of Tennessee. Focus groups were also conducted to gather input and identify anecdotal data to support the assessment process.

Community Health Concerns Identified

- ◆ Elder Health Care Issues
- ◆ Lifestyles
- ◆ Stroke
- ◆ Infectious Diseases
- ◆ Cancer
- ◆ Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs
- ◆ Opportunities for the Youth
- ◆ Youth Health-Obesity & Hypertension
- ◆ EMS
- ◆ Motor Vehicle Crashes

PRIORITIZED PROBLEMS

The Council discussed an increasing range of pressing health problems that the community must address with limited resources. To direct those resources well, the Council established priorities from among the problems identified. For this task the Council chose a modification of the method developed by J.J. Hanlon who is a nationally known public health professional. This method sets priorities on the basis of the size and seriousness of the problem in conjunction with knowledge about the effectiveness of potentially available interventions. Each problem being considered was given a numerical score on a scale of 0 to 10 based on the size of the population affected, the seriousness of the problem and the effectiveness of potential interventions. The following formula was used for the calculation of total scores (D) where A=size; B=Seriousness, and C=Effectiveness of Interventions,

$$D = A + (2B) \times C$$